

AIRGRAM

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : SecState WASHINGTON

1964 DEC 22 PM 12 09

FROM : Amembassy NICOSIA

DATE: December 17, 1964

SUBJECT : Communication Facilities: Privileges and Immunities

REF :

There are attached pertinent Memoranda of Conversations with the Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President of the House of Representatives, and the Minister of Finance.

Enclosures:

- 1 - December 15 - Araouzos
- 2 - December 16 - Clerides
- 3 - December 16 - Solomides

Taylor-G. Belcher
Ambassador

GROUP 3 - Downgraded at 12-year intervals, not automatically declassified.

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☒ In ☐ Out

Drafted by:

TGBelcher/llw 12/17/64

Contents and Classification Approved by:

Taylor G. Belcher

State Dept review completed

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The Minister then pointed out that there had been members of the Committee who had actually proposed that the assessments on each car be made retroactively, but based on the actual date of first importation which in some instances was some years ago. Another policy that had been considered and rejected was that the 850-odd cars which had been imported by people assigned to the radio facilities during the past three years when the ATL system had been in effect should be assessed and a claim lodged with us for payment.

I pointed out to the Minister that under these circumstances I was certain that a number of individuals would be forced to take their cars off the road because it would hardly be an economic proposition for someone who had only another three or four months to serve here to pay (in one instance) over \$200. The Minister then pointed out that the amounts payable as shown in the tabulation would be considered due from individuals whether or not they licensed the car for 1965. I pointed out that I thought this merely added to the injustice of the proposal and I hoped that he and his colleagues could see their way clearly on the P & I Committee to reconsider their position and I expressed the hope that he might support me in this effort. Arasouzos said that he would be glad to present my views but that he personally felt that the proposal was a reasonable one from the point of view of the Government of Cyprus and he could hold out little hope to me that there would be any revision.

At this point Mr. Pelagias pointed out that as from the date a final decision on this matter was reached the individuals concerned would of course not only be required to pay the assessed fees but would also be required to pay gasoline tax. Again I remonstrated pointing out that this was one of the privileges which was covered by the word "arrangements" in the Archbishop's letter of January 11, 1960, and that as stated in my note of December 9 we considered that these arrangements continued in force until such time as a new agreement covering the operation of the stations had been reached. The Minister then said that the COC could hardly accept this contention in that he had provided me with the final position of the COC on the question of privileges and immunities in his note of December 4. He pointed out that the only point on which our position had not been fully met was the question of the personnel assigned to the stations and that this matter had been the subject of numerous communications between the Ministry and the Embassy in which there had been no agreement. The definitive position of his Government had been expressed and at some point in the near future the revised arrangement would have to go into effect.

I pointed out that at no time in any discussions that I had taken part in with either himself or Mr. Pelagias or Mr. Kyprianou had any indication been given by the Cypriot side that the Government was

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